

Case 3130***Pelastoneurus* Loew, 1861 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Pelastoneurus* Loew, 1861 for a genus of predaceous flies in the family DOLICHOPODIDAE. This is a diverse and widespread genus of over 100 species, which are distributed in the Nearctic, Neotropical, Afrotropical and Oriental regions. The name is threatened by the little used senior synonym *Paracleius* Bigot, 1859.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; DOLICHOPODIDAE; *Pelastoneurus*; *Pelastoneurus vagans*; Nearctic, Neotropical, Afrotropical and Oriental regions.

1. Bigot (1859, pp. 215, 227) established the genus *Paracleius* for the single species of fly *Dolichopus heteronevrus* Macquart, 1850 (the type species of this genus by monotypy). Specimens of *Dolichopus heteronevrus* Macquart, 1850 are unknown and the original description is insufficient for precise identification; consequently, this species is unrecognizable (Foote et al., 1965; Dyte in litt.) but apparently belongs to *Pelastoneurus* Loew, 1861 (see Robinson, 1970).

2. Loew (1861, p. 36) established the genus *Pelastoneurus* for six New World species, which he named: *Pelastoneurus longicauda*, *P. lugubris*, *P. laetus*, *P. arcuatus*, *P. vagans* and *P. cognatus*. Coquillett (1910, p. 586) subsequently designated *Pelastoneurus vagans* as the type species.

3. Robinson (1970) suggested that *Paracleius* Bigot, 1859 should be suppressed on the basis that the genus has generally been recognized for over one hundred years by the younger name *Pelastoneurus* Loew, 1861. He further stated that the type species of *Paracleius* Bigot, *Dolichopus heteronevrus* Macquart, is clearly referable to *Pelastoneurus* as currently defined. Dyte (1975) concurred with Robinson's argument for the suppression of *Paracleius* Bigot, 1859.

4. *Pelastoneurus* Loew has been in wide use since its proposal in 1861 and has been repeatedly cited in the zoological literature. A representative list of 48 references is held by the Commission Secretariat. However, fewer than 25 of these were published in the last 50 years. As a result, this name cannot be considered a nomen protectum under Articles 23.9.1.2 and 23.9.2 of the Code. However, as this genus is a diverse and

widespread group of over 100 species distributed in the Nearctic, Neotropical, Afrotropical and Oriental regions (Foote et al., 1965; Robinson, 1970; Dyte, 1975; Dyte & Smith, 1980), we propose that in the interests of nomenclatural stability the Commission should conserve its widely used name *Pelastoneurus* Loew, 1861 by suppression of the name *Paracleius* Bigot, 1859 under Article 23.9.3 of the Code.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the generic name *Paracleius* Bigot, 1859 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Pelastoneurus* Loew, 1861 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Coquillett (1910) *Pelastoneurus vagans* Loew, 1861;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *vagans* Loew, 1861, as published in the binomen *Pelastoneurus vagans* (specific name of the type species of *Pelastoneurus* Loew, 1861);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Paracleius* Bigot, 1859, as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).